

**Council to End Homelessness in Durham** • April 20, 2017 10:00–11:30am  
*Location: Families Moving Forward, 300 N. Queen St, Durham, NC 27701*

**Attendance:** *Chairman Sheldon Mitchell (Urban Ministries); Catherine Pleil (Families Moving Forward); Rikki Gardner (Housing For New Hope); Lloyd Schmeidler (City of Durham); Matthew Schnars (City of Durham); Randy Oberrath (Freedom and Hope Center); Melissa Oberrath (Freedom and Hope Center); Gudiun Parmer (CJRC); Spencer Bradford (DCIA); Ann Tropiano (Families Moving Forward); ; Valaria Brown (Alliance Behavioral Healthcare); Doneicia Johnson (Durham VA); Melody Marshall (Durham Public Schools); Jessica Herbin (Durham VA); DMalik Kennedy (DUPD-HAT); Lakeisha Minor (Habitat of Durham); Psiyina Davis (Nehemiah Christian Center); Ryan Fehrman (Families Moving Forward)*

The meeting of the Council to End Homeless in Durham was called to order by Chairman Sheldon Mitchell with welcomes and introductions. Minutes were reviewed with one misspelling noted and offered for correction. Lloyd moved to approve the minutes with the correction, seconded by Valeria and approved by the body.

Chairman Mitchell then introduced the first order of business which focused on a presentation by Lakeisha Minor from Habitat from Humanity's Homeowner Incubator Program. Ms. Minor described the program as a 1 year old initiative in response to the numerous families that have been denied for other Habitat for Humanities services over the years. Ms. Minor shared that in 2005, 400 pre-qualifying applications were received but nearly 80% were denied. In response to this, the incubator program was developed for individuals who are interested in purchasing a home but unable to qualify for home-ownership. The Incubator provides renting options to prepare for homeownership within a year. Ms. Minor encouraged providers to consider the appropriateness for homeownership prior to referral to include a minimal income is \$17,500 ann. (1458.33/month) for any family size. Also, while in incubation program, families are required to participate in the home ownership program where they meet with certified housing and credit counselors, reviewing budgets and credit in preparation for home ownership. To qualify for the current 4 units available, families must demonstrate a need for housing, must be able to pay between \$550-650/mo., and be a resident of Durham. At the end of the presentation, questions were entertained to include Lloyd's question of 'How long do potential residents have to have established residency in Durham?' Ms. Minor responded that the incubator program has no residency requirements as the 6 months required in the program will make any person eligible. Other questions and responses indicated that the program accepts subsidy for assistance for first month's rent/security deposit, Housing Choice and VASH vouchers. Also, there is one unit available with 1 bedroom but the homeownership program is always available with plans to increase capacity. Ms. Minor further shared that the agency is currently compiling a list of families that have previously applied and are currently participating in the credit counselling programs as they move forward with the initiative. Sheldon expressed his appreciation to Habitat for their continued support of affordable housing and options for homeownership for Durham's citizens.

Next, Ryan Ferhman, Executive Director of Families Moving Forward, provided an update on the Collaborative to End Family Homelessness. Ryan shared that the Collaborative historically began with four organizations (Genesis Home, Urban Ministries, Durham Interfaith Hospitality Network, Housing for New Hope) and was organized to create a coordinated intake process in response to the HEARTH ACT's

encouragement for communities to examine how it supported homeless families. From this, a goal of “How can Durham improve services to families experiencing homelessness” was taken on by the Durham Collaborative to End Family Homelessness (see flow chart). Targeted support areas included: short-term hotel-stays, examining interventions that impact all children of all ages and, overall collaborative work within the community. Matt encouraged the Collaborative to continue to expand on the diversion aspect of the process and assess whether it would be beneficial to grow this aspect. Matt also encouraged the Collaborative to share their information publically to ensure community-wide knowledge and support. Chairman Mitchell thanked Ryan for his continued dedication to ending family homelessness.

Next, Sheldon invited updates regarding the temporary library facilities at Nehemiah Christian Church and CJRC. Gudiun began by sharing that weekend labs continue to be offered at CJRC with limited usage on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Psiyina Davis, of Nehemiah Christian Center, shared updates regarding the Day Center, noting that it continues to provide comfortable facilities and computer options during the library closure with short-term plans to assess various community partners to determine what services would be most helpful. Ms. Davis further shared that a survey is being distributed to gather information from individuals who have used the day center to gain a better perspective of what is desired and needed for individual accessing the facility. Utilization numbers reveal an average of 25-28 individuals utilizing the facility each week with the highest number reaching 32 individuals in a week. Chairman Mitchell expressed our continued appreciation to Ms. Davis and Nehemiah Christian Church for their willingness to assist and serve our community. The floor was then opened up for announcements as noted in the following:

Spencer: EFSP Funding Update- No formal update at this time. However, most recipients have received funding due to documentation. Final reports to close out the cycle will not be provided until all have reported. New round of money will not be available for awarding until November and possibly January, 2018.

Lloyd: Last opportunity to contribute to Boys and Girls Club Friday, April 28 with lunch available for \$8. Also a 50/50 raffle with all proceeds to John Avery Boys and Girls Club.

Pre-application process is open for the competitive CoC funding. The city is anticipating having permanent housing bonus to support chronically-based homeless individuals. Process in online and for further information contact Lloyd.

Homeless State Conference: McKimmon Center May 8-9.

NC Housing Coalition Newsletter referenced challenge for Wake County. Wake County has applied for a zoning adjustment to build in Cary. Encouraged Cary citizens to support zoning changes to support building.

MATT: CoC process: stressed there may be a shift in how money is deployed. New Rep for State ESG- Kim Crawford--and will assist in furthering collaborations

HMIS system performance measures are due May 31. Reports that the majority of the system measures we are doing worse than last year and wants to ensure support is offered to clarify and rectify.

New Performance Measures—New HUD Data Quality Performance Measure reports run 10/1/12 to present. Importance of the information leads directly to funds and want to reflect accurate data.

Performance Management Meeting will be rescheduled.

Department of Community Development will meet this afternoon and are going through realignment with strategic goals that will potentially lend support homeless housing.

LIFESKLILLS-Youth Focus PIT count will be scheduled late May

Ricki—2017 marks the 25<sup>th</sup> year of Housing for New Hope Celebration Breakfast Tuesday May 9

Lifeskills Open House Martha St: May 18 4:00-6:00

The meeting was adjourned at 11:29 pm by Chairman Sheldon Mitchell.

Respectfully submitted,  
Melody Marshall, CEHD Secretary